INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
INDIANA LAKE MICHIGAN COASTAL PROGRAM

Critical Wetlands of Indiana's Lake Michigan Coastal Region

Acid Bog:

Acidic wetland with kettle holes, or depressions in glacial terrain. Consists of low shrubs and mosses; can also be a floating mat. Non-flowing, to very slow flowing water fluctuating seasonally.

Panne:

Herbaceous wetland within interdunal swales, or depressions on the lee, or back side of the first or second line of dunes from the lakeshore. Naturally irrigated by outflow of groundwater.

Circumneutral Bog:

Receives groundwater, can be a floating mat. The soils are usually peat or low nutrient organic substrates, saturated and slightly acidic. Non-flowing to slow flowing water.

Circumneutral Seep:

Groundwater-fed wetland on organic soils and herbaceous with scattered tree canopy. Slowly flowing water during part of the year and naturally irrigated by groundwater.

Fen:

Calcareous, or chalky, groundwater fed mosaic of grassy, sedge, grassy-sedge and tall shrub areas. Slowly flowing water; the water level fluctuates seasonally.

Sedge Meadow:

Sedge-dominated wetland of river floodplains, lake margins, or upland depressions. Substrate is highly organic at or above the water level.

Forested Fen:

Tree-dominated wetland on organic soil, which receives groundwater. Mosaic of tree, tall shrub, and herbaceous species.

Shrub Swamp:

Shrub dominated wetland permanently inundated and commonly occurs in depressions. Non-flowing water fluctuates seasonally.

Marsh:

Herbaceous wetland of non-flowing water (e.g. lakes). Water levels may fluctuate but rarely recede to expose soil surface.

Wet Prairie:

Herbaceous wetland that occurs in deep swales; substrates range from very black mineral soils to muck.

Notes: Wetland Communities in Indiana are defined based on Natural Community Classifications, IDNR, Division of Nature Preserves. All photos were taken by C. Lawson from the Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program.
For more in depth information on wetlands and their definitions, consult Indiana's Wetland Conservation Plan (IDNR, 1996), Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States, (Cowardin, et. al., 1979), and DNR: High Quality Natural Communities of Indiana.

www.in.gov/dnr/naturepreserve